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The succeeding chapter, on George Bancroft, illustrates admirably the value of the employment of the same material by more than one person, for the foot-notes seem to indicate that more of the substance of this paper was drawn from material not used, though available for use, in the *Life and Letters of George Bancroft* than from the pages of that biography. The newly printed passages from Bancroft's correspondence throw fresh and revealing light upon phases of his long career, well summarized in about seventy pages.

A short chapter on Two Literary Historians adds less to the familiar knowledge of Prescott and Motley, for the good reason that there is less to add. Peter Force, the Compiler, the one remaining substantial division of the book, goes into many details of Force's collecting and of his relations with Congress. Its value is greater in the field of record than of interpretation.

There are few slips in the book to be noted. Mather, not Matthew, Byles, was "the celebrated Boston minister" mentioned on page 25. The Rev. Jedediah Morse, twice mentioned in the book (pp. 239, 306), spelled, or misspelled, his name "Jedidiah". The "noctograph" appliance which Prescott used in writing is misprinted "nocograph" (p. 214).

There are points in the book at which the details of authorship—the number of words in a volume, the financial outgo and income—seem to usurp the place of "the weightier matters of the law". There are other points at which the book would be better for something more of grace and flexibility of style. But it fills a place of its own in the record of American scholarship, and fills it well.

M. A. DeWOLFE HOWE.

An Abridgment of the Indian Affairs, contained in Four Folio Volumes, transacted in the Colony of New York, from the Year 1678 to the Year 1751. By PETER WRAXALL. Edited with an Introduction by CHARLES HOWARD McILWAIN, Assistant Professor of History in Harvard University. [Harvard Historical Studies, vol. XXI.] (Cambridge: Harvard University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1915. Pp. cxviii, 251.)

THE irreparable loss to American scholarship caused by the fire in the State Library at Albany is gradually being mitigated by the publication of careful transcripts made by competent hands before the catastrophe occurred. In this category is Wraxall's *Abridgment*, of which Professor McIlwain gives so scholarly a presentation in this volume.

Peter Wraxall, secretary of Sir William Johnson and, as the editor shows, largely instrumental in securing his appointment as superintendent of Indian Affairs, had access to the records of the Albany Commissioners, who controlled these affairs for the province of New York

from the early Dutch era until the appointment of Johnson. In 1754 Wraxall drew up for the Earl of Halifax from the original records an extensive state paper, in which he summarized the commissioners' entries, and set forth the trend of Indian negotiations for nearly three-quarters of a century. To this *Abridgment* Wraxall added his own notes and comments, making it a contemporaneous as well as an historical document.

Part of the original records from which this summary was drawn is still in existence. In 1751 the loose sheets on which the commissioners' entries had been made were gathered into four folio volumes, and for many years remained in the custody of the Johnson family. During the American Revolution these volumes with the other effects of the Loyalist Johnsons were taken to Canada, and there in the archives at Ottawa two of the original folios are preserved. Professor McIlwain is optimistic enough to hope that the two missing volumes may yet be recovered "somewhere in Canada". With those now accessible he has made a careful comparison of Wraxall's *Abridgment*, and unhesitatingly pronounces it trustworthy and accurate. The publication is important not merely as a contribution to the history of colonial New York, but because of its revelations of the continental and international aspects of the fur-trade with the western Indians.

Not the least useful portion of the volume is the editor's introduction. In these 118 pages, he outlines the history of the fur-trade from its inception under the Dutch control until the overthrow of the French power in America. He sets forth the rivalries of the natives for the Indian trade, the exceptional advantages of the New York traders, and their ultimate success in diverting to their doors the larger share of the peltries brought by the French merchants from the far Northwest.

In the course of this discussion he suggests that the French and Indian War really began in 1752 at Pickawillany in western Ohio, when Charles Langlade (later founder of the first permanent French settlement in Wisconsin) fell upon the English traders of Pennsylvania, scattered their goods, destroyed the trading-post, and massacred the renegade Miami chief. This episode, while striking, is by no means unique, and if one thus antedates the beginnings of the war, it might be as well to go back to the rivalries that stimulated the Fox Indian wars, or to the clash of traders concerned in the revolt of the Huron chief Nicolas. The temptation to date the shot that is "heard around the world" frequently leads an author far afield.

The editor's grasp of the importance of the fur-trade as a determining factor in colonial and international politics is excellent. His study of its effect upon the course of colonization, and upon the policies of colonial governors, is comprehensive. His understanding, however, of the relation of the trade to the decadence of the aborigines is not so complete. He does not show that the effect of the beaver hunt upon the habits and economic status of the red man was far more disastrous than

the havoc it played with the plans of the colonial authorities. Nor does he set forth the importance of the intertribal trade that antedated the white and the Indian intercourse which formed the staple of colonial commerce. Upon one aboriginal trait the editor lays valuable emphasis, namely, the astuteness of the Iroquois in their rôle of middlemen between the merchants at Albany and the Indians under French influence. He likewise lays bare the vital importance this relation had to the final overthrow of French sovereignty in North America.

The document and introduction together form a valuable contribution to the growing literature concerned with the American fur-trade, a subject whose importance to colonial history is being more and more exploited. It is unfortunate that so excellent a book, intended for the use of scholars, should be without so necessary a tool as an index.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG.

The Journals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway, kept on the Expedition of Western Exploration 1803-1806. Edited with Introduction and Notes by MILO M. QUARFEE, Superintendent of the Society. [Publications of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Collections, vol. XXII.] (Madison: The Society. 1916. Pp. 444.)

THIS volume is a distinct addition to the literature of the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition sent out by President Jefferson in 1803, which later became an important item in proving the title of the United States to the Oregon Country; it both complements and supplements similar volumes heretofore available. It reproduces original journals which have been found among family papers by the descendants of Nicholas Biddle of Philadelphia, the editor (by authority of President Jefferson) of the first *History of the Expedition*.

Pages 31-76 inclusive contain the journal of Captain Lewis during his journey (August 30 to December 12, 1803) from Pittsburgh down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers to Camp Dubois opposite the mouth of the Missouri River, where the full membership of the party was assembled and organized, some of the entries being by Captain Clark, who joined him en route. Despite a long hiatus, covering fifty-four days of the period, this is an important record of the preliminary journey, with references to a few of the party as finally constituted. The compass, style, and orthography (the manuscript has been printed literally) are the same as those of the *Original Journals of Lewis and Clark* (ed. Thwaites, 1904-1905).

Pages 80-402 inclusive contain the more valuable and extensive journal of John Ordway, sergeant of the Lewis and Clark party, kept by him during the entire journey from Camp Dubois (May 14, 1804) to the Pacific Ocean and the return to St. Louis (September 23, 1806). This journal has the distinction of containing an entry for each day of